[5th May 1954

Closure of the Aaron Spinning and Weaving Mills, North Malabar.

* 503 [a] *Q.*—SRI T. C. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR : Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries and Labour be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have received any representation or report from the interested parties or Labour department about the closure of the Aaron Spinning and Weaving Mills, Pappinisseri, North Malabar, with effect from 12th January 1954; and

(*b*) if so, what action has been taken in the matter?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" (*a*) Yes, Sir.

" (*b*) The matter is under consideration of the Government."

SRI T. C. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR :—" Sir, as the Textile Industry is a public utility service, is it not necessary that the management should give notice to the Government as well as the workers before the closure of the mill and if so, what action has been taken by the Government on that aspect of the matter? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" Sir, it is no doubt correct to say that the management closed the mill without any notice. The action that should be taken by the Government on this matter is under examination."

SRI K. P. GOPALAN :—" May I know, Sir, what action the Government are going to take against the illegal closure? Sir, the Hon. Minister was saying that the matter was under consideration. I may say that the mill was closed on January 12th and it has been reported by the Labour Department that this was an illegal closure; questions have also been raised in this House so many times. Now, I want to know definitely from the Hon. Labour Minister what action is going to be taken against the illegal closure of the mill."

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" Sir, the information that I now possess is that a still further report is awaited by the Commissioner of Labour. I do propose to discuss the matter with the Commissioner of Labour and then I can tell the hon. Member and the House what action we propose to take."

SRI V. BALAKRISHNAN :—" Sir, for how long has this mill been under closure and what is the number of workers involved? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" Sir, the mill was closed on 12th January 1954. About the total number of workers involved, I would like to have notice."

SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP :—" May I know what the important points raised in the memoranda are? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" Sir, so far as the management is concerned, they want a loan of Rs. 10

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[a] Postponed from the list of questions for 1st April 1954.

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lakhs from the Government. So far as the workers are concerned, they have protested against the closure. The Government have been examining what action they could take on the closure without notice."

DR. K. B. MENON :—" I know, Sir, from personal information that hundreds of workers are in the street. Are the Government thinking of giving them any help in any way possible? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" I would like to have notice on the point, Sir."

SRI S. RAMALINGAM :—" தொழிலாளர்களை வேலையை விட்டு நீக்குவது என்றாலும், அல்லது தொழிற்சாலையில் ஆட்குறைப்பு செய்வது என்றாலும் இதனால் பாதிக்கப்பட்ட தொழிலாளர்களுக்குப் போதிய நஷ்ட ஈடு கொடுக்கவேண்டுமென்று சமீபத்தில் பார்லிமெண்டில் புதிய தொரு சட்டம் செய்யப்பட்டிருப்பதாகத் தெரிகிறது. அப்படியானால் இந்த மில்லை மூடியதின் காரணமாக வேலையை இழந்து தவிக்கும் தொழிலாளர்களுக்கும் நஷ்ட ஈடு கொடுப்பதற்கு சர்க்கார் ஏதாவது நடவடிக்கை எடுத்திருக்கிறார்களா ? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" Sir, the report that the Government have is ' that the mill was financially in a bad position ' and it was closed, no doubt, without notice. The Government have been examining what arrears of wages and compensation they could secure for the labourers."

SRI V. R. KRISHNA AYYAR :—" Sir, now that the mill has been closed for several months and about 1,400 families are in the streets for want of work, would Government do something urgently somehow to revive the mill? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" I cannot give an assurance that the Government would arrange to revive the mill. But I can give the hon. Member this assurance, namely, that Government would take all possible steps to help the workers who are without work."

SRI T. C. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR :—" Are the Government aware of the fact that 1,400 workers who were on rolls on the day of the closure of the mill were to get some Rs. 2,70,000 by way of wages and compensation from the management and is it a fact that the management of the mill concerned has since mortgaged the properties of the mill making the workers lose the arrears due to them to that extent? If so, what action do Government propose to take to see that the workers are not put to trouble or loss? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" I have no information just at present what exactly is due to the workers. But the hon. Member is aware that I have been discussing the matter with him so that steps may be taken to give some relief to the workers."

SRI M. KALYANASUNDRAM :—" சபாநாயகர் அவர்களே, 1,400 தொழிலாளர்கள் பட்டினியாகக் கிடக்கக்கூடிய பிரச்னை இது. அதுவும் மில் நிர்வாகத்திற்கென்று சர்க்காரிடத்திலிருந்து பத்து

லட்ச ரூபாய் கடன் அவர்கள் கேட்டிருக்கிறுர்கள். சர்க்கார் இந்தப் பத்து லட்ச ரூபாய் கடனே கொடுக்க வேண்டுமென்று சர்க்காரை நிர்ப்பந்திக்கும் முறையில் இம்மாதிரியாக மில்லே மூடி **1,400** தொழிலாளர்களேப் பட்டினியாக இருக்கச் செய்திருக்கிறுர்கள். ஆகவே தொழிலாளர்களே பட்டினி கிடக்கும் வகையில் நிர்பந்தப்படுத்தியும், சர்க்காரை பயமுறுத்திப் பணம் கடன் கொடுக்க நிர்பந்தப்படுத்தவும் இம்மாதிரியாக மில்லே மூடி யிருக்கிற அந்த மில் முதலாளிக்குத் தக்க பாடம் கற்பிக்கும் வகையில் அந்த நிர்வாகத்தை அவர்களிடமிருந்து சர்க்காரே ஏற்று நடத்த ஆலோசனே ஏதாவது செய்வார்களா என்று நான் கேட்க விரும்பு கிறேன். ”

The Hon. Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—“ I may tell the hon. Member, Sir, that this Government have informed the management that they are not for giving any financial assistance and the hon. Member will remember that the previous Hon. Minister in charge of Labour has answered a question in this House that the Government did not propose to take over the management of the mill.”

Sri K. P. GOPALAN :—“ I request the Hon. the Speaker to allow a half-hour debate since this is a very important issue.”

Mr. SPEAKER :—“ I have no objection. We will have a half-hour debate to-day.”

The Hon. Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—“ Sir, I do not think I shall have any further information to supply to the House, if the debate is held this evening.”

Mr. SPEAKER :—“ It is only a half-hour debate . . .”

The Hon. Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—“ I shall give whatever information I have.”

Community Project Schemes for Tanjore.

11-10 a.m. * 508 *Q.*—Sri A. GOVINDASWAMY NAYAGAR (on behalf of Sri K. R. Sambandam): Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(*a*) the improvements so far made in the villages of Tanjore district under the Community Project Schemes; and

(*b*) the amount so far spent in the district?

The Hon. Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—“ (*a*) The Community Project Scheme has not so far been extended to the Tanjore district.

“ (*b*) Does not arise.”

Sri S. RAMALINGAM :—“ இதர ஜில்லாக்களில் கம்யூனிடி பிராஜக்ட் திட்டங்கள் நடைமுறையில் கொண்டுவந்திருக்கும்போது, தஞ்சை ஜில்லாவுக்கு மட்டும் ஏன் பாரபட்சம் காட்டப்படுகிறது என்று மந்திரியாரைக் கேட்க ஆசைப்படுகிறேன்.”

The Hon. Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—“ Sir, the hon. Member need not have any glamour for the words ‘ Community Project ’. Perhaps it has some resemblance to the word ‘ Communist ’. But on this account, he need not have a